THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The import of seeds into India was restricted by changes in the Plant Quarantine guidelines. As a result, import of stock seeds (parent seeds) used for multiplication was restricted. Consequently the production of exportable seeds decreased.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) operates various schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the exporters for market development, infrastructure development, qualtiy development, research and development and transportation.

Indian Goods to Afghanistan through Pakistan

4349. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian goods are not being permitted to Afghanistan through Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government has held any talks with Pakistan in this regard;

(c) the details of such talks;

(d) the outcome thereof; and

(e) the likely income to be generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (e) The issue of transit of Indian goods from Pakistan to Afghanistan is high on the agenda of the Government and has been taken up with Pakistan. The issue was raised during the visit of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf to India from April 16-18, 2005 and the Prime Minister of India underlined the need to multiply beneficial linkages of trade and transit.